

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
29 MECHANIC STREET  
WIND GAP, PA 18091  
610-863-7288**

The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Kerry Gassler, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Council members: Winton Male, Jr., Karen Skorochood, Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr., George Hinton, Scott Parsons, and Tony Curcio. Also in attendance Mayor Kenneth George and Secretary/Treasurer Louise Firestone.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

1. EMS – Tom Knitter asked Council if they could fix the floodlights over the garage doors at the Ambulance building. Karen added that the Ambulance Corps would be sponsoring a blood drive on December 10, 2004 – for more information call 610-863-7623.
2. Police – George Hinton reported that the Civil Service Test was administered for the full-time police officer position. Karen was a proctor for the testing and added that the first round testing was completed at the fire hall on November 9, 2004 with eighteen individuals taking the test. Once the test results come back the oral exams will be conducted.
3. Streets – George Hinton reported that he would be meeting with Bernie Corbett and the new representative from PennDOT to discuss the water problems at the intersection of Woodward and Lehigh. The Borough has received the necessary permit to install the traffic light at the intersection of South Broadway and Third Street. Leaf pickup will continue throughout the Borough.
4. Finance – Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. reported that he would be meeting with Diane Elliott to gather the surveys from West West Street.
5. Administration – Winton Male reported that he is looking into software capable of pdf conversions.
6. Zoning – Tony Curcio had nothing to report.
7. Planning – Scott Parsons had nothing to report.
8. Parks – Karen Skorochood reported that the Park Board completed their budget and Council has a copy.
9. Fire Company – Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. reported the Fire Company held their meeting

last night. They responded to nine alarms in October and 163 year-to-date. They will be conducting a coin toss on November 26, 2004 and the tree lighting ceremony is November 28. There is a Christmas party at the firehouse on December 5 and Santa will be at Brown-Daub on December 11, 2004. There are three new social members. The Ladies Auxiliary will be holding a hoagie sale on January 5, 2005 and their Chinese Auction is scheduled for April 24, 2005.

10. Sewer Authority – Tom Knitter presented the Wind Gap Municipal Authority monthly report to Council. He stated that there is some resistance by the developer for the CVS to move the sewer line into the sidewalk. If it is not moved the line will be in 512 in the line of traffic and if repairs are needed it will be costly and time consuming to fix. He reported that the Wind Gap Municipal Authority has raised their rates to \$35.00 for the first increase since 1990 due to unexpected legal expenses and litigation. If everything gets back to normal the rates may be reduced. The Authority Administrator sent a letter formally notifying Council that the Authority is recommending reappointment of John Barto, Jr. and Thomas Knitter.

11. Insurance – Winton Male reported that there would be a substantial increase in insurance premiums for next year. The Police professional policy and public officials policy comes due in February.

12. Land Use Committee – nothing to report.

13. 911 – Tony Curcio reported .

14. Waste Management. Scott Parsons reported that there have been no new meetings scheduled. Kerry suggested forming a committee and appointing one person to go to Waste Management for money specific to projects in the Borough. Winton stated that Waste Management should be willing to offer a new contract and the committee should be three elected people from Council not from the community. Kerry stated that Waste Management has been approached regarding completing all the improvements for the Third Street traffic light project. Council will meet in Executive Session to discuss a new agreement with Waste Management prior to the December 6, 2004 Council meeting.

## **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported that the Contractor's license collected in October was \$25 for a total of \$2,225 for the year and a total of \$2,500 collected year-to-date. The police report includes 139 calls in the month of October, 6 motor vehicle accidents, and 28 citations written. This report includes a report for each officer. George Hinton to attend the next COG meeting at Washington Township. The Mayor stated that the COG is trying to set up joint purchasing through the State. The Borough would need to pass a resolution to participate in the joint purchasing. Health coverage and code enforcement are both important issues that other municipalities are looking at for more alternatives and the COG may be helpful.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of November 1, 2004 and seconded by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. Mitch asked that his motion for CVS not reflect a dollar amount since one was not stated and the other should include that a pole must be installed at Delaware for a street light. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. George reported that PennDOT sponsored a seminar about Liquid Fuels that both he and Louise attended. The seminar covered how funds could be spent. The most informative portion of the seminar included how to purchase vehicles through a contract with the City of Harrisburg. George explained that several different options could have been used when the Borough purchased the green truck last year for the Street Department. Once the roll and chassis were purchased it was sent out for ten to twelve weeks to be fitted for the body and during that time the interest is accumulating, which the Borough must pay. The Borough could have saved thousands of dollars by paying for the roll and chassis before having the body sent to an outside vendor. He suggested that the next time the Borough purchases a vehicle that it looks into different alternatives for saving money.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Additional Street Lighting. Mitch asked Council if they had the chance to look at the proposed additional lighting in the Borough as mentioned at the last meeting.

**On motion** by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. to do the additional street lighting at a cost of \$920.64 per year and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Building Maintenance Code. Winton reported that he reviewed the building maintenance code and suggested that Council might want to consider adopting the code as is. Karen stated that the code is too stringent for the Borough. Winton replied that many residents of Wind Gap live in substandard conditions and this would set rules that could be enforced by the Borough because currently the Borough has no code at all. The Mayor suggested that the document be reviewed and a happy median be found. Kerry stated that he was concerned more time is needed to look into specifics of the code before adopting it.

**On motion** by George Hinton to form a committee of five people, three from Council and two from outside possibly a landlord and a builder to review the code and make suggestions to Council and seconded by Karen Skorocho. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously. Kerry appointed Winton as the chair, Karen and Scott from Council and suggested that two additional people sit on the committee, preferably a landlord and builder.

3. Scott reported on the DEP meeting that was held last Monday. The meeting was structured to present information to Wind Gap, Pen Argyl and Plainfield Township. All the DEP hearings that need to be conducted could last well over a year. Winton suggested that the Borough putting something together to receive a contract with Waste Management that is nothing less than Pen Argyl's contract.

4. 2005 Budget. The deficit for the budget is \$182,102. Without reducing any expenses of the proposed budget a 3.25 mill increase would be necessary. Council reviewed the proposed expenses of each department. The Police Department will be adding a fifth full-time police officer, the Street Department will be adding another full-time street worker. Along with the salaries, the fringe benefits for two full-time employees have been included in the budget. The Capital Reserve account has several line items that could be used to offset the deficit.

**On motion** by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. to transfer \$16,700 from Capital Reserve accounts to the General Account and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**On motion** by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. to reduce the Park's Capital Project line item to \$8,000 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**On motion** by George Hinton to advertise the 2005 Budget with a 2.5 mill increase and seconded by Scott Parsons. Roll call vote taken. In favor: S. Parsons, K. Skorochood, T. Curcio, G. Hinton, K. Gassler. Opposed: W. Male, M. Mogilski. Motion carried with a vote of 5-2.

**On motion** by Scott Parsons to adjourn the meeting of November 16, 2004 and seconded by Tony Curcio.

The meeting of November 16, 2004 adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Louise Firestone, Secretary / Treasurer